

## The Times-Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1908.

Bravery, honesty, veracity—these are the qualities which are needed always, as the root of all greatness in man.—Grouse.

## GREATEST NEED OF THE SCHOOLS.

Virginia has about 600,000 children of school age, and in a few years these boys and girls will be the men and women of the State. The men will be directing the political, financial, industrial and commercial affairs of the State, to say nothing of moral and educational affairs, and the women in large part will be presiding over the homes.

To educate these children the State is employing 10,000 teachers in the public schools alone, and expending approximately \$2,000,000 annually. Yet in a great work of this character we are using teachers whose qualifications in most cases are known to no living man, and we are using many superintendents who have no expert knowledge of educational methods, who are unable to make any practical suggestions to teachers, and we are paying them a pittance for such portion of their time as they may see fit to give to the work. As a result, the methods of teaching in many schools are fifty years behind the progress of the age.

It is the most absurd contradiction in our scheme of government; it is the most wasteful of all our false economies. We employ experts to superintend our factories, our farms, our railroads and even our machinery; we leave the supervision of our schools and the operation of the delicate machinery of the system to novices. This is not true of all cases, for Virginia has some good superintendents, but it is true as a general proposition, and no reflection is meant upon the character of the superintendents. We are speaking of their accomplishments. It is no reflection upon a college professor to say that he is not qualified to operate a railroad; nor upon an expert railroad man to say that he is not qualified to teach a class in moral philosophy. But it would be ridiculous to place either in the position of the other. Supervision in any direction which is worthy of the name must be expert.

The superintendent must have accurate knowledge of the work which he directs. Teaching is a profession, and a superintendent of schools to be worth anything to the work and to the teachers must know better than the teachers themselves how to direct a school, how to enforce discipline, how to bring out the best that is in the pupils, from dulcet to brightest. We cannot hope to have a school system that is better than its supervision. If we would improve our system in Virginia we must begin at the top and improve the quality of supervision. The people of Massachusetts reached these conclusions years ago and that State employs in its public school system 179 superintendents at an average salary for each of more than \$1,500. This is but an expression of the thrift and business that characterize the people of New England. A little of the same sort of leaven in the Virginia public school system would soon leaven the whole lump.

We beg of the members of the Virginia Legislature to take these plain, but serious, facts under consideration. Give the public schools the same chance to develop and improve that the commercial and industrial enterprises enjoy. Appropriate sufficient money to give to every county an expert superintendent, whose entire time and energy and good will service will be devoted to the work, and the efficiency of the schools will be improved a hundred percent, and more.

## T. P. A. AND PUBLIC ROADS.

The Travelers' Protective Association is the friend of the good roads movement in Virginia, as it is of all progressive measures. At a recent meeting of its joint committee on good roads, it was unanimously resolved to support the Withers-Lassiter amendment, instead of offering a bill constructed by the T. P. A., as at first proposed.

The good roads committee of the State Hotel Association has also approved this bill, whose main provision is that judges of courts be required by law to sentence jail convicts to work on the roads.

When the original Withers-Lassiter bill was introduced at a former session of the Legislature, The Times-Dispatch gave it support, and we are gratified to know that, as a law, it has operated to benefit both the convicts and the roads. The amendment as now offered will greatly strengthen the law and make it more efficient. The Travelers' Protective Association and the Hotel Association are doing well to advocate it, and these associations are always a power for good.

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## "FOR THIS RELIEF, MUCH THANKS."

Was Harry Thaw crazy when he killed Stanford White? About as crazy as the rest of us are when we fly into a passion and lose our self-control. It may have been a trifle worse with him, for Thaw was possessed of less than the average allowance of self-control. He was reared in an atmosphere of luxury and indulgence, which makes weaklings, and he was infatuated with, and dominated by, a pretty girl, who was both foolish and bad. She poured into his ears, or she says she did, horrible stories of ruin and persecution, and at a convenient moment she tempted him to shoot; and he yielded. The jury doubtless decided that a man of Harry Thaw's temperament, laboring under such a spell, was not legally responsible for his action; at least, they gave him the benefit of the doubt that had arisen in their minds, and brought in a verdict of acquittal.

But there were other considerations. Jurors are but human, and each one of these jurors probably felt that Stanford White got his just deserts; that the man who riddled society with such a foe to virtue performed a public service and deserved praise and not punishment. At any rate, that is the popular verdict, and if you doubt it feel the public pulse. But such a verdict cannot be justified in law. There is no escape except through the plea of insanity, and hence that plea has now been incorporated as the enabling clause of the unwritten law.

It is fair to the jury to say, however, that District Attorney Jerome has contended from the start that Thaw was a person of unsound mind. Taking the jury at its word, Justice Dowling ordered that the prisoner be committed to the Matthean Asylum for the Criminal Insane, there to be confined until by the usual processes of law he can establish his sanity.

All parties in interest seem to be satisfied with the verdict, and the public is to be congratulated for the disgusting and demoralizing case is at an end.

## RIGHTS TO THE AIR.

The German writer who calls insistently for atmospheric legislation is doubtless premature. The dirigible balloon has not yet supplanted the steam car and the motor, the buggy and the bicycle. But if the day arrives when it does thus come into general use, as scientists tell us that it will, it is evident that a troop of brand-new laws, to fit brand-new contentions, will follow hard upon its heels.

Equity of this sort is not easily determined. Riparian rights, for example, have given a lot of trouble in their time, and are doubtless good for many a bitter legal wrangle yet. It has been settled that if a man owns land abutting on a river bed he owns, under certain limitations, half of such river bed along the line of his property. If he owns land abutting on an ocean, he does not own half the ocean, or any of it. His country owns, with qualifications, a water strip three miles wide the length of its coast, and beyond that come the high seas. Now, relatively few men own property abutting on water, but every man who owns property at all, owns property abutting on air. Hence, atmospheric rights, when the atmosphere is a common highway, will infallibly become a burning issue.

How much of the air above his front lawn does a man own? It would not be right for him to own all of it—countless millions of linear miles. It would not be fair for him not to own any of it. At present, the latter condition prevails. The airship, being unlegislated against, goes where and does what it wants. It can scud past a gentleman's parlor windows, drop beer bottles and sardine tins into his flower beds, crush in his stable roof and rip up his cornfields. It can even drop an aeronaut or two into his well. He has, in short, no privacy from the pesky things whatever.

Business of this kind, of course, cannot go on forever. The air about a man's castle belongs to him. It must be kept sacred from the intrusions of strange and flying scientists. Yet the atmosphere, at the same time, must not be closed wholly to these new engines of transportation. The "freedom" of air has become proverbial. Possibly the whole controversy can be adjusted, as oceanic rights have been adjusted, by awarding all air below the 500-foot level, say, to the property-owners abutting upon it, and throwing all above it—the "high airs"—open without fear or favor to the argosies of magic sails and pilots of the purple twilight.

## "BLIND BARTIMAEUS."

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)  
 "And it came to pass that as he was coming high unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the wayside begging."—Luke xvi, 25.

Jericho is no longer upon the map. Of course the site remains, but the city has long since ceased to exist. Jericho lay in the valley of the Jordan. Up among the hills around Jerusalem there were cool and refreshing winds, while at Jericho it was hot and stifling. It was called the "City of Palms," but the palm is the least satisfactory of trees. It is graceful and attractive, but it gives little shade, where much is needed. A single American pine, or oak, is better than a whole grove of palms. So the sun blazed down on Jericho, upon the white earth and white buildings. The continuous glare and the dust made it bad for the eyes, and in consequence there were many blind in the city.

On this special day one of these blind men was sitting in the main street by one of the city gates. It was an early spring morning, for the snow was near at hand. Every tender beauty of the early day and

season. But in the midst of it all sat the poor blind man, for whom all this loveliness did not exist. His family seemed well known, but they were poor, for their son sat by the wayside begging.

"The lot of a blind beggar is indeed a hard one, and yet there are compensations. He had both leisure and liberty. He had time to think; and to think without distraction. And though poor and helpless, many were kind to him in pity. He had much to think about that morning. The day before a person had come to Jericho, of whom wonderful things were told.

And now, on this bright spring morning, Bartimaeus heard in the distance a crowd coming. On they came, and filled the street from side to side. He reached out his hand and grasped the nearest, as he asked, "What is it?" The man replied, "Jesus of Nazareth passeth by." Immediately Bartimaeus began to call, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy upon me."

Bartimaeus recognized the opportunity. There must have been twenty blind men in Jericho that day, and every one must have known that Jesus was there. None in the town could help knowing the fact. The others were blind when Jesus came, and just as blind when he went away. They missed their great opportunity. Every day Jesus passes by. In the street, in the schoolroom, in the office. As we read, walk, work or wait, He comes, ready to bless us if we will but ask for it.

The beggar's cry was also an utterance of faith. He not only recognized an opportunity, but he found it in the person of Christ. He was one of those who, having not seen, believed. His faith was small indeed, but it prevailed. It made him side with those who were with Christ, and call out to Him for help.

What is the faith which saves men? It is that which makes the little child hold tight to his father's hand. You cannot define it, but you see what it is. It is that which makes a man appeal to Jesus Christ; in temptation, he turns to Him for strength; in sorrow, for comfort; in perplexity, for truth.

And Jesus heard the cry. "What do you want?" says the Master. "I want to see," said the man. Blessed is he who knows thus plainly what he needs. One reason for our halting progress is we do not know what is the matter with us. We have a vague idea that we are not as good as we ought to be, and that we have various faults. What we need to do is to take our imperfections, one by one, and definitely and patiently amend them. Let the others go; take one, and bring it to the Master as Bartimaeus did his blindness. Thus we shall be cured.

The man came to Jesus blind, but went away blind no longer. If came a beggar; he went away a beggar no longer. Can we see the difference between right and wrong—see the way of duty, see our neighbor, ourself and God? Who is there that can do this clearly? Jesus Christ will give us sight. He will open our eyes if we ask for it in faith, as the blind man did.

When Bartimaeus's eyes were opened the first thing he saw was the road before his feet. It led after Jesus, and he went along that way. He followed Him. If he took the gift which the Lord had given, and used it in that Lord's service.

Are we doing the same?

It may be well to remind our younger readers that the fortnight February 2-16 is a peculiarly favorable season to stack up against a breakfast table decorated with the genuine Old Virginia sausage, to say nothing of this writing about the sun-kissed Sally Lunn sitting demurely on the side.

A Los Angeles court has just ruled that when an automobilist runs over you and slays your horse and assigns can sling him for damages. Cancel your life insurance and try this on the chauffeur.

The Houston Post maintains that Martin Littleton's Texas upbringing is something for him to boast about. Herein, we suspect, lies one serious difference between the Post and Mr. Littleton.

It is no easy task for the telegraph editor to keep the other end of the line, or Leslie, off the front page.

Few men in the world's history have not said so many interesting, stimulating and illuminating things as has Hon. George B. Cortelyou.

We herewith call as a lie the whispered story that the Paragraphers' Union is about to order out its night-riding defense of the stricken Cabot Lodge boom.

If the groundhog goes back, just drop a line to the weatherman, in a plain sealed wrapper, and tell him what you think.

Those are sadly mistaken who fancied that Governor Hughes was going to run his boom on any close-jawed, George B. Cortelyou basis.

The real peril of the message was that it all but made Senator Thirsk-termer Bourne giggle himself to death.

"Why not visit Cuba at the Georgian's expense?" Inquires that enterprising Atlanta Journal. We're all Barkless up here.

Mr. Thaw doubtless slept happy last night in the knowledge that somebody else had killed Stanford White.

There may be two perpetual candidates in the old county yet.

"I'd be for anybody who is acceptable to Roosevelt," says Hon. Bart Masterson. This appears to commit Hon. Bart irrevocably to the third-term movement.

A New York man killed himself the other day after seeing one act of a musical comedy. However, he was not the author of the play.

By this time, we suppose, young Countess Scheyntel can pronounce Luzzio without going back for a running start.

Third-term talk is being valiantly revived. We understand that the Whitehouse chief is a very good one indeed.

## Rhymes for To-Day.

FEBRUARY 2.

LAY in the lee of the bower  
 From 130 A. M. about  
 And there I watched, hour by hour—

Till Ground Hog, the shy one, came out;  
 Aye, sneaked out and peeked out—and yawned.

And started to turn on his track—  
 But I sprang upon him and bellowed:  
 "Hog, don't you go back!"

Sniffed he: "Where's the hole that has lodged me?"

Stand clear, lad—my shadow is there!  
 And thereon he cleverly dodged me  
 And hit the back-track for his lair.

But I with a swiftness that stripp'd  
 Of cunning and vigor and wit,  
 Rushed on him and agilely tripp'd him—

And then how we fit!  
 We rolled like two beasts o'er the hummock.

We snarled neither favor or fear,  
 He bit me some bites on the stummock,  
 I kicked him some kicks in the ear.

He vowed he would get back direct  
 I swore he should stay out till June—

Well, which of us 2 spoke correctly?  
 YOU'LL KNOW PRETTY SOON!  
 H. S. H.

NERELY JOKING.

Proximity.  
 "Foreman Long: 'How near did ye ever come to being rich?'"  
 "Tulard Knut: 'Well, I was next time to a millionaire want. Me an' ole Muntowan had a business in a hum in the same night, an' they put us in adjoint cells at the p'lice station.'—Chicago Tribune.

Her and Abe Away From Home.  
 The brothers Eckstein were being entertained by one who was anxious to avail himself of the services of Omar Khayyam. "Give me a nice porthouse," he ordered.

"I'm sorry, sir," said the proprietor of the establishment, urbanely, "but we are not giving anything away this morning."—Harper's Weekly.

Free List Suspended.  
 "Bilkins has recently moved from New York to Boston. The other morning he was in a Richmond boarding-house, and 'Give me a nice porthouse,' he ordered."

"I'm sorry, sir," said the proprietor of the establishment, urbanely, "but we are not giving anything away this morning."—Harper's Weekly.

BILL SKILLIT AND OTHER FRIENDS.  
 THAT Michigan judge who ruled that "sausage is sausage," evidently never heard of the product Bill Skillit ships out of Henrico county, Va.—Atlanta Georgian.

The digestive powers of the hyena are said to be extraordinary, one of the animals having been known to swallow a whole sheep without crushing them. This shows the advantage of not having been brought up in a Richmond boarding-house, and compelled to eat old Bill Skillit's sausage and such—Bristol Herald-Courier.

"New York, of course," says the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "is not a civic center, it is rather an epicure for a state of mind." This sounds like a snarl for Marvellous Manhattan.—Nashville Tennessean.

"Plain, hard, intelligent tell is the greatest result-getter yet revealed to man," says the Richmond Times-Dispatch, "the paper that organized the Paragraphers' Union, and is now sorry for it.—Washington Herald.

"The visit of Mr. Bryan to Washington the past week demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that he will be the Democratic nominee to the presidency. There was little doubt prior to his visit. Such doubt as existed was due to the pronounced manner in which certain Democrats opposed to his nomination had discussed the proposed visit, and the vim they manifested in declaring that they would see that he was not elected."

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## Washington Snapshots and Sidelights

FEBRUARY 2.

Times-Dispatch Bureau.  
 Munsey Building,  
 Washington, D. C., Feb. 1.

Decidedly the event of the week in Washington was the reading of the very remarkable message which the President sent to the Senate and House of Representatives yesterday. The demonstration of applause, chiefly from Democrats, when the reading was completed in the House, indicated in terms absolutely incapable of being misread, that the Democrats of Congress approve what has been done in the enactment and execution of laws against unlawful combinations of capital, and the demand of the President that there be further legislation designed to curb "law-defying wealth."

The expression quoted by the way, is likely to take a place with "shoddy and ugly work" and several others which Mr. Roosevelt has made famous.

There be some who charge that the message was designed to be used as a campaign document, and that it was not intended that the Congress should undertake the work of legislation along the lines laid down in it. It is entirely fair to the President to say that this is not by any means a general view. Democrats give him credit with actually advocating the views he expresses. But the more conservative, while approving his position, confess that his proposition to shackle wealth as force has been shoddy in more than anything which has emanated from the White House.

Even granting that the President is right in every dictum, and that his course, if followed to the end, would lead to "that righteousness which exalts a man," it must be admitted that his remedies are as heroic as the most strenuous of his followers claim the disease is desperate.

The close intimacy which sprung up between Senator Joseph E. Johnston, of Alabama, and Senator Simon Guggenheim, of Colorado, has developed into a chumminess which is the talk of the Senate. There is little in common between the two, apparently, yet they appear to have a fondness for playing the roles of David and Jonathan together that is frequently alluded to by Senators and attaches of the body.

There was not room for Mr. Guggenheim when he entered the Senate this year as the new Senator from Colorado, so he was given a seat on the Democratic side, and by Senator Johnston, who had just been elected to serve his first term as Senator from the State of Alabama. The two have become inseparable. They are always met in the marble room, and begun conversation, as they always do when opportunity offers.

"The Democratic National Convention is going to be rather hard on you this year, won't it?" asked Senator Johnston, with an air of solicitude.

"How so?" asked Senator Guggenheim.

"Why, you know, the custom is that Senators, without regard to party, are expected to entertain all the members of the Senate who attend a national convention held in their city."

"That's so?" asked Mr. Guggenheim.

"But I assure you I shall be glad to entertain all the Democratic Senators who may attend the convention. I shall place an automobile at your disposal, Senator, in addition to giving you a bed and three meals a day, and I hope you will have a good time for as long as you stay with me."

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